



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015**

**MPs are wrong to override ethical and safety objections to mitochondrial donation**

The national pro-life charity LIFE has expressed utter dismay at this afternoon's rushed vote in the House of Commons to authorise mitochondrial donation, or 'three-parent IVF'.

MPs voted by 382-128 in favour of the government's draft regulations, which will now be debated and voted on in the House of Lords.

A spokesman for LIFE, Niall Gooch, said: 'We understand that mitochondrial disease causes a great deal of suffering and heartache for many people. Nevertheless, there are real and serious ethical issues which cannot be ignored. As well as the principled objection to the destruction and manipulation of embryonic human life shared by many people, these techniques also potentially involve irreversible and irrevocable changes to the human germline which has never been done before. The human germline refers to the gene sequences that are passed from generation to generation, which are being irreversibly tampered with in mitochondrial donation.'

'Given the lack of knowledge about the long-term consequences of such changes, this is something that should be approached with extreme caution, not rushed through after brief debate. Very little is known about the potential health consequences for the person born following mitochondrial donation, and whether the techniques can even be made to work effectively.'

'The reassurances about safety so glibly voiced today are hollow, as without a crystal ball very little can be known about possible future repercussions.'

**END**

**For further media comment please call the LIFE Media Hotline on 07867 744502**

**LIFE is a pro-life charity that supports anyone facing a crisis pregnancy, pregnancy loss or after an abortion, and strives to engage, inspire and inform the next generation.**